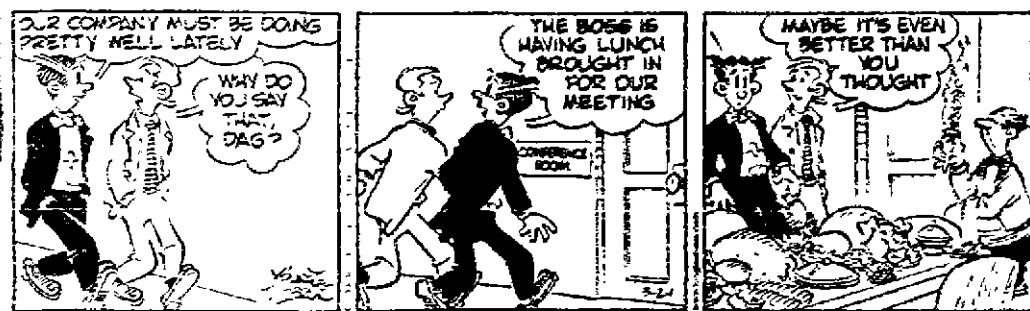


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



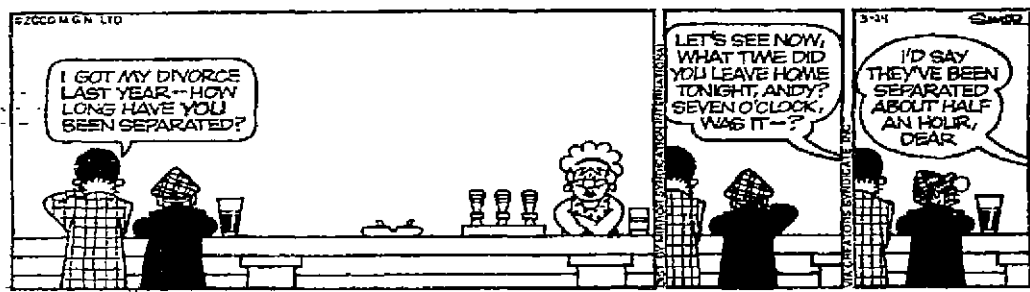
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



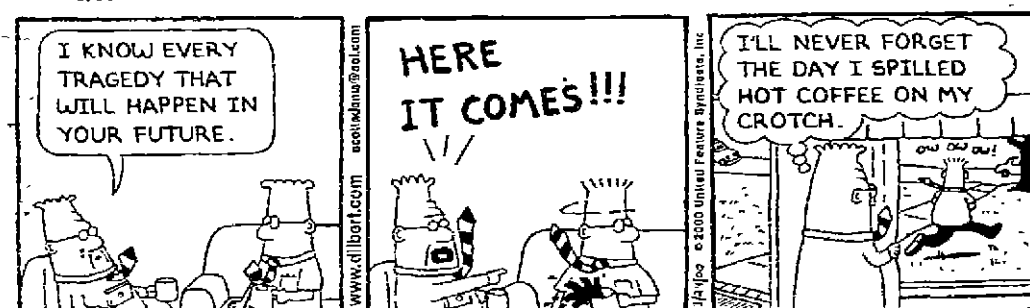
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



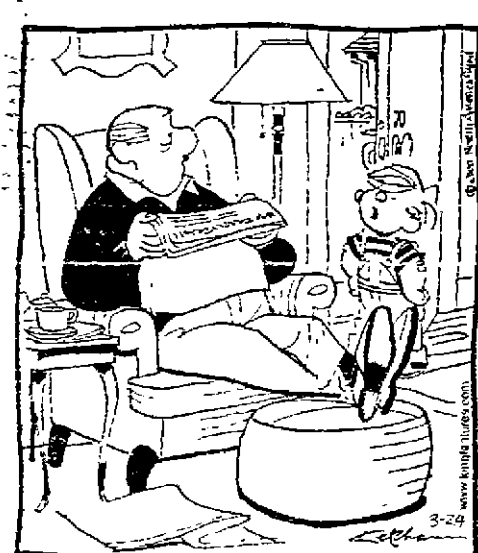
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



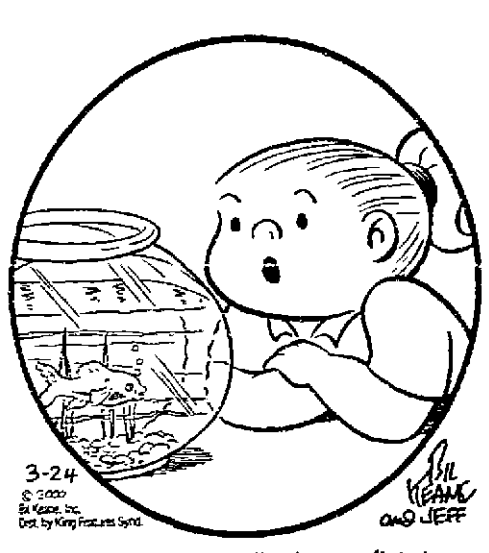
DILBERT



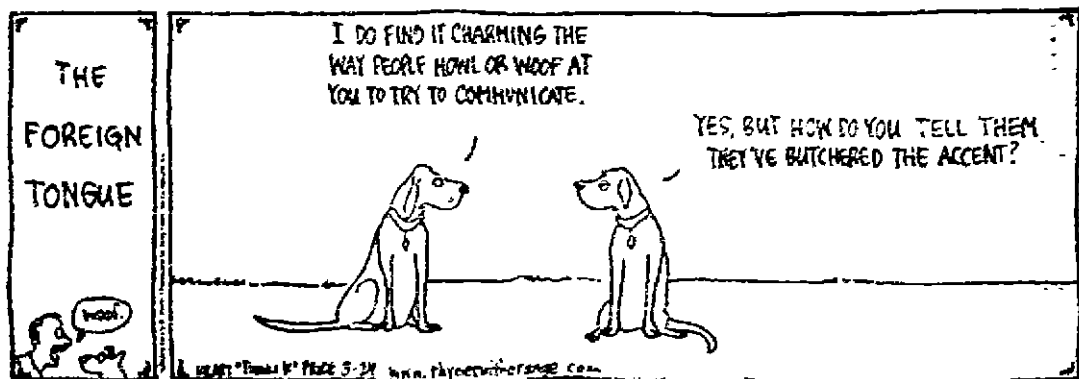
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 60. Actor R. Lee Ermy is 56. Rock musician Lee Oskar is 52. Rock musician Dougie Thomson (Supertramp) is 49. Comedian-actor Louie Anderson is 47. Actress Donna Pescow is 46. Actor Robert Carradine is 46. Actress Kelly LeBrock is 40. Rhythm-and-blues DJ Rodney "Koolha" Terry (Ghettown DJs) is 39.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

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G	A	H	U	U	T	C	RACK 1
L	E	U	S	T	O	M	RACK 2
O	R	T	M	E	E	E	RACK 3
O	T	T	O	E	B	E	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 85-95 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" tiles use as any letter but have no point value. All letters words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 3-24-00 ©2000 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

FORTIFICATIONS

Q D B Y W T R P M X K I F D B
Y W D U S E Q O B O M K I F D
T B B L Z X D W L B U S N N Q
O R U T O N L A O L J F O A H
F D A N C H A Y C L W O S C V
T O R P K S G I K I Q R I E
M P N E M E T N H P R T R B L
L B U L W A R K O K I R R R T
H F E C D O R B U R Z E A A S
H C N E R T T Y S W T S G B A
V U L L A W T A E R G S S R C

Thursday's unlisted clue: QUIVER.
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: ROYAL FORTIFICATION

Barbican	Bunker	Great Wall	Stronghold
Barricade	Citadel	Moat	Tower
Blockhouse	Fortress	Pillbox	Trench
Bulwark	Garrison	Rampart	

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, March 25

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A positive attitude is the best defense against trying times.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Accusing your partner of something he or she didn't do is sure to cause tension.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You can learn a lot if you sit back and observe what's going on around you today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is the perfect day to let your inner child out of its shell.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Family issues are important today. Make more of an effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Listening to someone give a speech or joining in a discussion is beneficial.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your desire to acquire material possessions makes you seem selfish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your confidence level is at an all-time high as the moon moves through your house today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Spend some time getting to know yourself a little better today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You have plenty of friends and relatives who are willing to lend a helping hand -- so let them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your emotions are exposed today, leaving you feeling quite vulnerable.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) It's best to stick with what you know today.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

The unwary win the diamond lead and cash two high trumps, hoping to drop the queen. When West discards, they try to run the clubs to discard a spade. Unluckily, East ruffs the third club and switches to spades for the final insult. The defenders take three spades and a trump, sending the game one down. How does the hustler make the game? He leaves nothing to chance. With a week's rent at stake, he wins dummy's diamond ace, cashes dummy's trump ace, and takes a finesse against East's trump queen. Briskly, he picks up the queen and earns an over-trick after he discards a spade on dummy's long club. Does the card shark have better eyesight than others? No, he just has a more vital interest in executing a safety play. He risks little if the trump finesse loses. Had the trump finesse lost to West's queen, West would not have been able to attack gainfully in spades, and South would have had time to score a sure 10 winners.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 7 4 3	♥ Q 10 9	♠ A 7 5 3	♥ Q 6 4
♦ A 6	♣ K 7	♦ K 7	♣ Q 5 4 3 2
♠ K Q J 10	♥ A 6 3	♠ A 8 2	♥ A 6 3
♦ 2	♣ K 6 5	♦ J 10 9 8	♣ K J 10 9 8
♠ 7 5 4 2	♥ A 6 3	♦ 7 5 4 2	♥ A 6 3

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: North
The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♥ Pass 4♥ All pass
Opening lead: Diamond jack

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0211

ACROSS

1 Bahraini V.I.P.'s: Var.

7 Kind of atmosphere

14 They may be given test runs

16 Creator of a bear market?

17 Dorothy Parker had one

18 Man, for one

19 Go for the bronze?

20 Made one

22 Hair stylist's challenge

23 Jim Davis's dog

25 They're used to fashion models

26 Dog command

27 "Uh-uh!"

29 They can be fertilized

30 Annoyances

31 Back in

33 Chicago suburb

36 "Homage to Sextus Propertius," e.g.

38 Good ranch stock?

41 Sitar accompaniment

44 "Man in Revolt" author Brunner

45 Women's org. since 1890

47 Xenocrates' mentor

49 2-Down's accessory

50 Irish export

51 Dying words

52 It's inflatable

53 Sanford and son

56 Make 50-Across

57 Turn off completely

59 Lead statistic

61 Rapprochement

62 Dash

63 Woman of the future?

64 Did a bank job?

DOWN

1 1997 New York City mayoral candidate

2 Focus of a bull session?

3 Comb rubber

4 East extension

5 Brand name with an accent on it

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ABORIGINAL
TORONTO
EASTON
ETO LIEN
CUI PENH
SACHS GOURD
CLOUDS SSE
HERMANN
MANS IOU
OFF STING
ICES TALES
IHEAR OOE
SILVERM
ADDENDA
YESDEAR

ALSO
DECLARE
EASYSO
RECON
PENH
AMO
DRAB
ELVILLE
LIVELY
CASES
GAP
EDALIST
BOLIVIA
ONENESS

6 Wow

7 DuPont has one

8 Leponne leapers

9 During

10 Fringe

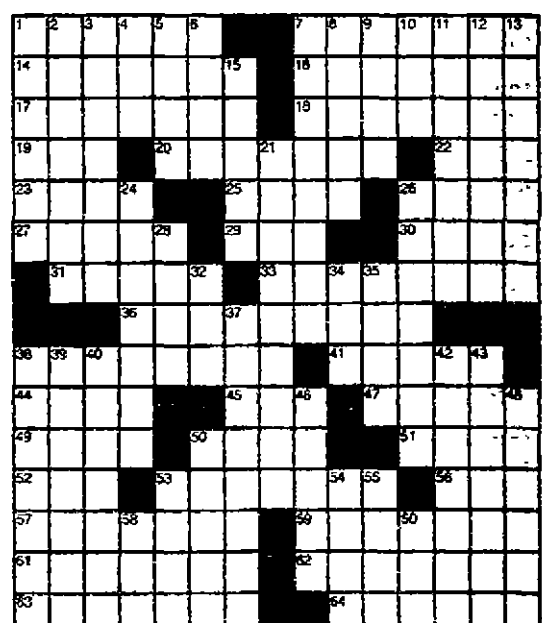
11 Cosmopolitan competitor

12 Lays away

13 Like the divers' end of the pool

15 Watch word

21 Sugar or flour purchase



Puzzle by Elizabeth C. Gould

42 Grating pattern

43 Executive's burden

46 Plot differently

48 In the minority

50 Commits a deadly sin

53 Busy time for ministers

54 Roster abbr.

55 Zero

56 E.U. country

60 Dallas player, briefly

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.